

THE DAY THE SUN CAME OUT (pages 14–23)

Making Inferences

To make an inference, use clues from the story or personal experiences. An **inference** is a reasonable guess the reader makes about events or characters in a story.

In the first column below are events from "The Day the Sun Came Out." In the second column are inferences based on each set of statements. Fill in the blanks in the second column.

Story Event	Inference
1. The family walks while a horse pulls their wagon. They make a fire to cook their food.	The events in this story probably happened _____.
2. Pa never talks to Mary, but before he leaves the cabin, he tells the narrator to "mind what she says."	Pa knows that Mary will _____.
3. Mary finds a large mushroom, but at first she forbids the children to eat any of it.	The food may be _____, so Mary does not want the children to risk _____.
4. When Mary goes to bed after eating, the girls stay as far away from her as they can.	They are _____ with Mary because she did not _____ to them.
5. The next morning Mary and the children laugh and play and tell stories.	Everyone feels happy because _____.

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Character

Characters are the people who take part in a story. To learn about characters, pay attention to what they think, say, and do. Look also at what others say about them.

Read the paragraphs below about characters in "The Day the Sun Came Out." After each one, circle the word that best describes the character. In the paragraph, underline the clues that helped you decide.

1. Mary "had run away from somewhere that she wouldn't tell." She told Pa, "I'd rather go with a family and look after kids, . . . but I ain't going back. If you won't take me, I'll travel with any wagon that will." Mary acts _____.

foolish determined proud

2. Every day Pa walked twice as far as the wagon hunting for game. He fished for half a day before he gave up. Then he decided to walk at least four days to find old John and get some food. Pa is _____.

desperate skillful handsome

3. When Mary went to look for the horse, the narrator was busy bringing in firewood and yelling so "Mary would hear me and not get lost." He decided he was too big to cry the way his little sisters did. The narrator is _____.

confused happy scared

4. Mary sliced and fried the mushroom, but she stared at it for a while before eating it. She told the boy, "By tomorrow morning, I guess you can tell whether you want any. . . . I don't know how it will be if it's poison." Mary is _____.

courageous hardworking selfish

5. Pa shouted as he came out of the woods. The children saw him leading a horse loaded down with food. "He glanced at us anxiously as he tore the ropes that bound the pack. 'Where's the other one?' he demanded." Pa is _____.

proud caring full of energy

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Context Clues

To find out the meaning of an unfamiliar word, look for context clues. **Context clues** are the words and phrases that surround a word and give clues to its meaning.

A. Use context clues to determine the meaning of each boldfaced word. Write the meaning on the line.

1. The amount of food in the cabin was **skimpy**; there was not enough of it for a good meal.

Skimpy means _____.

2. Pa gave Mary a **scowl**, but his angry look did not frighten her.

Scowl means _____.

3. When we were filled with **anxiety** about Pa, Mary tried to calm our troubled feelings.

Anxiety means _____.

4. The children **savored**, or tasted with pleasure, every bite of the mushroom.

Savored means _____.

5. Mary's actions were calm and dignified as she walked **sedately** towards us.

Sedately means _____.

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

skimpy savored scowl sedately

1. They walked _____ down the sidewalk, pausing to admire the shop windows.

2. We _____ every bite of the delicious chocolate candy.

3. Since the restaurant served _____ portions, we were hungry soon after we finished eating.

4. When several people in the audience began coughing loudly, the choir director gave them a _____ and asked for silence.

THE DAY THE SUN CAME OUT (pages 14–23)

Words to Know

desperate grudging endured savoring sedately

A. Fill in each blank with the correct word from the list above.

1. When you are slowly enjoying one bite at a time of your favorite food, you are _____ each bite.
2. At your parent's request, you let your brother borrow your new scooter. You give it to him in a _____ manner.
3. Another word for *calmly* is _____.
4. How might someone act if he lost his pet? _____
5. A brave person who has not taken any medicine to stop a pain has _____ the pain.

B. Write **true** or **false** in each blank.

- _____ 1. Most brides walk **sedately** down the aisle.
- _____ 2. If I gladly loan you my favorite CD, I am giving it to you in a **grudging** manner.
- _____ 3. It is below freezing outside; you are **savoring** each moment you are in the cold.
- _____ 4. A **desperate** person does not worry or suffer.
- _____ 5. A team that loses an entire season has **endured** a lot of shame.

Writing Activity

Think of a time when you had to give up something. Write a diary entry about that event. Use at least three **Words to Know**.